



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HENDERSON MAN GUILTY OF FEDERAL GUN VIOLATIONS

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 26-year-old Henderson man has pleaded guilty to being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm in the Eastern District of Texas. **DERIC LAMONT SHEPPARD** entered his guilty plea today before United States Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie.

According to information presented in court, on December 9, 2005, Sheppard was in a car when a gun was found by officers responding to a disturbance call where shots were fired in Henderson. Because Sheppard has prior felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. In 2002, Sheppard was convicted of four counts of delivery of a controlled substance in Rusk County. Sheppard was indicted by a federal grand jury last month and has remained in federal custody since his arrest in early June.

Sheppard faces up to ten years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.00 at sentencing. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Rusk County Sheriff's Office, and the

Henderson Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jim Middleton.

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